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THE CHILDHOOD OF THE WORLD.*—This tastefully printed little book will not, we think, disappoint those who take it up, provided they expect no more than what the author states in the preface to be its scope and aim, which are “to narrate, in as simple language as the subject will permit, the story of man’s progress from the unknown time of his early appearance upon the earth to the period from which writers of history ordinarily begin.”

“As the Table of Contents indicates, the First Part of this book describes the progress of man in material things, while the Second Part seeks to explain his mode of advance from lower to higher stages of religious belief.”

The first part, which is the shorter of the two, is too brief, and scarcely sets forth the claims of prehistoric archæology to the rank of a science; although the author very properly states the main fact of that science, more than once, *i.e.*, the very great antiquity of man. We think that he is too brief, in this first part, because it is possible he may not have said enough to excite the young reader’s attention and curiosity, and so cause him to look further into the subject of archæology, which offers so wide a field for research.

Mr. Clodd believes that man was created *de novo*, and not developed, and starting with that assertion, notices in detail, “Man’s first wants,” his tools; then fire, cooking, pottery, the use of metals, and then touches upon language, writing, counting, and man’s wanderings about the globe; holding throughout, apparently, that all men have sprung from a common origin, which we think by no means demonstrated. At any rate, climate, to which he refers on page 47, and “the land they dwell in,” will not of themselves explain the variation now existing between the several distinct types of mankind. Nor can we admit as true, the statement that America was peopled by tribes who “leapt across the narrow straits between Asia and America and wandered over that vast New World.” This “leaping across narrow straits” does not appear to us to accord with the traces of archaic man already discovered in this country, as “the contemporaneity of man in America with the mammoth and mastodon may be regarded as being satisfactorily established” and when we go back so far

* The Childhood of the World; A Simple Account of Man in Early Times. By Edward Clodd, F. R. A. S. London and New York: Macmillan and Co., 1873. Crown 8vo, pp. 118. Cloth.

into the past, do we find reason for believing the straits were then as narrow as now? May not an ocean have rolled between, or ice blocked up every portion of the way? In the second part, the researches of Max Müller, Tylor and others as to myths and worship in its various forms, are very clearly outlined, and, we doubt not, will be read with pleasure by all who purchase this little volume. We hope, with the author, that the subjects treated of may rouse a curiosity which will lead to the careful study of the works of Tylor, Lubbock, Nilsson, Waitz and other ethnologists, from which Mr. Clodd has so largely drawn in his brief account of Man in Early Times.—C. C. A.

CATALOGUE OF THE PHÆNOGAMOUS AND VASCULAR CRYPTOGAMOUS PLANTS OF CANADA AND THE NORTHEASTERN PORTION OF THE UNITED STATES.*—This is somewhat on the plan of the British exchange Catalogue which was in use twenty years ago. It is printed in eight pages of large quarto size, each of six columns. The portion of the United States included is co-extensive with that of "Gray's Manual" with the addition of a range of states on the western side of the Mississippi; namely, Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota.

An ingenious arrangement indicates the geographical range of each species, *i. e.*, its occurrence in either or all of three districts, *viz.*: 1, Canada; 2, Virginia; 3, Illinois; respectively representing the northern, the southern and the western distribution. The Catalogue extends to varieties, is very carefully prepared, evidently with much pains, and is admirably adapted for its purpose; that of facilitating exchanges among botanists. Mr. Curtiss, as one of our most active botanists, has doubtless felt the need of what he has now supplied.

BULLETIN OF THE BUFFALO SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCES.†—A new life is pervading this society, perhaps due to the removal of Mr. Grote, the well known lepidopterist, from the south to Buffalo. The first number of its Bulletin contains the four following valuable papers on moths by Mr. Grote, which will greatly interest lepidopterists. "Description of New North American

* Catalogue of the Phænogamous and Vascular Cryptogamous Plants of Canada and the Northeastern Portion of the United States. By A. H. Curtiss, Liberty, Bedford Co., Virginia.

† Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, Vol. i, Nos. 1 and 2, Buffalo, N. Y., 1873. With 3 lithographic plates. 8vo. pp. 128, \$2.50 a vol.